



February 2015

Community rallies around injured police officer



Succulent Centerpiece workshop Saturday at Botanical Center

Botanical Center staffer Angela Keith will help you create a living centerpiece of your own design with aloe vera, hens and chicks, sedum and other succulents. For ages 12 and up. 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center. \$35 includes all materials. Registration required at 417-891-1515.



Candlelight Vigil for Hailey Owens

8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18 at Hailey's Playground at Westport Park, 3100 W. Mount Vernon. One year has passed since Hailey Owens was taken from this community. Join her family and fellow Springfieldians as we honor her memory and pray for justice at Hailey's Playground at Westport Park. If you can't make it, turn on your porch light.

In the early morning hours of Jan. 27, 2014, a Springfield police officer on patrol noticed suspicious activity behind a business that had closed for the evening.

He called for back-up, and Officer Aaron Pearson and another police officer arrived at the scene to assist their fellow officer.

Police investigators believe Officer Pearson was shot by a man who has four convictions for resisting arrest or assaulting a law enforcement officer.

Officer Pearson suffered what Police Chief Paul Williams referred to as "career-ending injuries."

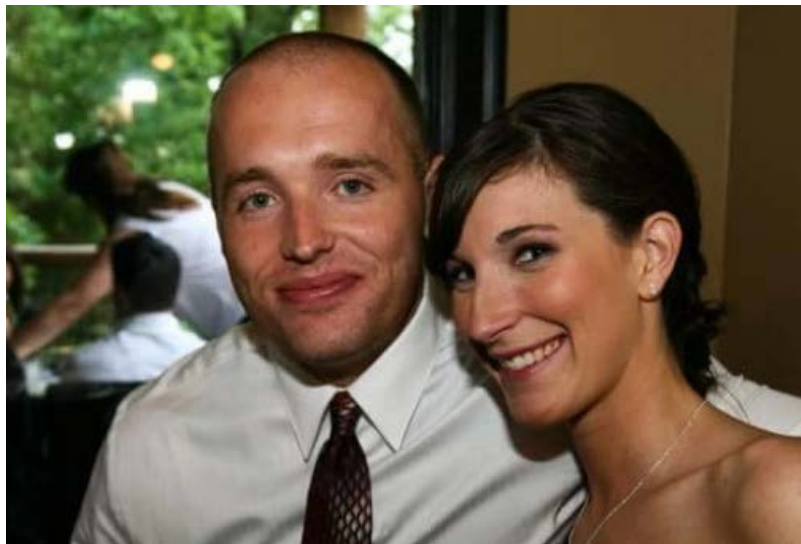
He is listed in serious but stable condition at a Springfield hospital and has a long road of rehabilitation ahead of him. There are several fundraisers planned to benefit a fund set up by the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police Foundation to help Officer Pearson and his family with their long-term expenses. His medical expenses and salary are currently covered by the City's worker's compensation plan. For more information about work comp benefits, please refer to Merit Rule No. 22.

Officer Pearson, who is 30 and has a wife and two children, has been in the Springfield Police Department for three years. He received a commendation last year for his role in a successful methamphetamine investigation.

Officer Pearson is originally from Blue Springs, east of Kansas City. Both his father and father-in-law were law enforcement officers.

Officer Pearson's background

Officer Pearson wrote about himself last year on *cops.com* because he was part of an episode



Officer Pearson with his wife, Amanda.



In Support of Officer Pearson

of "Cops" recorded in Springfield.

"I got the law enforcement bug from my father, Winston Pearson, initially. My dad has been with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department for 30 years. He always told me I would not get rich becoming a police officer, but I would love going to work every day and that is true. My father-

in-law, Tom Dempsey, is a retired sergeant with the Springfield Police Department," he wrote.

About his first arrest, Officer Pearson wrote, "I was still on field training and I was sent to a domestic assault. I was very nervous and tried to be very thorough. I arrested the male for third-degree domestic assault. He was highly intoxicated, but it was a relatively uneventful arrest, in hindsight."

"The best part of the job is the variety. I know this has been said thousands of times, but two days are never alike," he wrote.

How to donate to Officer Pearson and his family

- Tax-deductible donations to assist Officer Pearson and his family with long-term expenses can be made through the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, a 501 C3.

The primary account location is Commerce Bank at 2770 W.

▶ See *PEARSON* on page 3.

Mission trip to Nicaragua

Four firefighters travel to the third-world country to offer help.

2

911

The department took nearly 500,000 calls in 2014.

6

Do You Know?

Get to know Nii Abrahams in Public Information.

7



Firefighter Matt Fields with Fernando.

Springfield Firefighters help families build homes in Nicaragua

Four Springfield firefighters traveled to Nicaragua in January to help construct new homes through Rainbow Network, a Springfield-based non-profit.

Captain Jeff Prior, Rescue Specialist Matt Lyon, Firefighter Daniel Speights and Firefighter Matt Fields left Springfield Jan. 11 for Nicaragua.

The group helped Nicaraguan families begin construction on a 25-house project.

"Most people there live in shacks with dirt floors," Fields said. "They usually have 10 or 15 people living in about a 200-to-300-square-foot home."

The homes are located in the community of Las Rosas in the San Ramon Network, which is in the mountains near the large city of Matagalpa.

In addition, Fields has sponsored a young student, Fernando, in honor of the Springfield Fire Department.

"Fernando wants to grow up and be a fireman and that's why Rainbow paired us together," Fields said. "I was very excited for the opportunity to see him."

In addition to construction, the team visited medical clinics, feeding centers, banks, businesses,

a fire station and other established housing projects.

"It's a beautiful country, extremely nice people, they are all very friendly," Fields said. "This was my third time down there, and last year when I came back is when we first started planning our trip this year," he said.

His first time to the Central American country, he said, changed his life.

"I couldn't come back home and do the same things, be the same person that I was before I left," he said, "It's amazing, it's really wonderful."

Fire Chief David Hall said the sacrifice of his firefighters is admirable, but not surprising.

"Firefighters tend to be very compassionate – they care about people they see the need," he said.

He said it gives him a great sense of pride to see those like Fields taking the initiative to help, not just here in Missouri.

"To make a difference in other communities in other countries as well and I think that says a lot about his character," he said.

Fields is already planning his next trip back to Nicaragua.

SCENE [SPRINGFIELD CITY EMPLOYEE NEWS EXTRA]

EDITOR
Cora Scott

MANAGING EDITOR
Melissa Haase

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Kristen Milam

PHOTOGRAPHER
Christopher Akins

EDITORIAL CARTOON
Mark Montgomery

CONTENT MANAGER
Sharon Spain

COPY EDITOR
Sharon Smith

DISTRIBUTION
Jenni Lewis

The SCENE is published monthly by the City of Springfield, 840 Boonville, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, MO 65801.

Comments and articles which appear in The SCENE do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of City administration or any employee thereof, but are for information only. Permission to reprint material may be obtained from the Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1010.



MISSION

We are committed to working with the community to provide ethical and responsible local government so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of living and working in Springfield.

Additional City info is available on our Web site at www.springfieldmo.gov. Videos may be viewed on **CityView** on the Web or on Mediacom channels 15.1 and 80 and AT&T U-verse channel 99.

SCENE Deadline Feb. 27, 2015

Please direct your submissions to the Department of Public Information. Submissions and ads via e-mail are preferred: thescene@springfieldmo.gov

printed on recycled paper



Republic Road, but donations are accepted at any Commerce Bank location.

- Checks can be sent to: Missouri FOP Foundation, 2101 W. Chesterfield Blvd. C100-91, Springfield, MO 65807. Write "Springfield Police" in the memo line.

- A GiveForward.com fundraiser account has been set up by several high school friends of Amanda, Aaron Pearson's wife. As of Feb. 2, more than \$20,000 had been raised for the family. Visit www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/3dj1/love-for-officer-pearson-and-family.

- Drop off checks at either Springfield Police Department location: Main Headquarters at 321 E. Chestnut Expressway or the South District Station at 2650 W. Battlefield.

Fundraising events

- Inkspiration Tattoo & Piercing is donating 10 percent of all tattoo sales through Feb. 11. Inkspiration Tattoo & Piercing is at 1950 S. Glenstone Ave., Suite D. Call 417-882-1115.

- CrossFit Provision is hosting a special Hero WOD (Workout of the Day) at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Feb. 7 to raise money for Officer Pearson and his family. You do not have to be a CFP member to participate; \$5 donations are accepted with all proceeds going to the Pearson family. For every dollar donated, CrossFit Provision will match up to \$250. CFP will also be selling \$1 raffle tickets during the WOD

with half of that money going to the winner and the other half going to the Pearsons. CrossFitProvision is at 425 W. Plainview Road. Call 417-893-0237.

- Straight Edge Barber is donating 10 percent of proceeds from all haircuts through Feb. 7. Pearson and his son are regular clients at the barber shop. Included with men's haircuts: before and after shampoos, straight razor neck shave with hot shave cream and a style. Kids' cuts for age 15 and under are \$12. Men's cuts are \$15. Military/law enforcement discount is \$12. Women's cuts are \$25. Straight Edge Barber is at 1839-B E. Independence St., Studio 24. Schedule by phone, 417-379-5474 or online at www.417straightedge.com.

- Applebee's at 1855 E. Primrose St. is having a Pancake Breakfast All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser, 7-10 a.m. Feb. 7. Cost is \$5 with \$4 going directly to the Missouri FOP Foundation fund for Officer Pearson and his family. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. Call 417-883-4700.

- Pimp My Hair, 1002 S. Glenstone, will host a "Cuts for Officer Pearson" event 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. All proceeds from haircuts will go to the Pearsons. Raffle tickets also on sale for prizes with all money raised going to the family.

- Nakato Japanese Steakhouse will donate 50 percent of its total food sales 4:30-10 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9 to the Pearsons. Reservations are recommended, but they still leave room for



Police Chief Paul Williams presents Officer Aaron Pearson with his commendation for his work on a methamphetamine investigation.

walk-ins.

- Chili's Give Back Event. With every flier presented on Feb. 11, Chili's Springfield will donate 15% of the sales back to this great cause. Flyers can be downloaded from the Prayers for Pearson Facebook page. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Feb. 11, Chili's on South Glenstone.

- Louie Michael's Benefit and Thank You Concert at Cartoons Oyster Bar & Grill, 1614 S. Glenstone. 6-11 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12. Mark your calendar for this great evening of music for a great cause. There will be no cover charge for this event, but we hope people make an appropriate donation to Officer Pearson and his family. These bands, venue and many others are donating their time, venue, efforts and more because they care about this gentleman and his family's well being, so give generously.

- Springfield Express Hockey Game. Tickets, donations, merchandise to benefit Officer Pearson, 7-10 pm, Feb. 20, JordanValley Ice Park.

- "We Cut from the Heart" / Midwest Technical Institute, 3600 S. Glenstone. During the month of February, all proceeds from Saturday services in the student salon will be donated to the Pearsons.

- Mexican Villa South "Chips for Tips" fundraiser. Officers from

the SPD will assist wait staff and work for tips which will benefit the Pearsons. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Feb. 21.

- Domino's Pizza will donate \$1 for every pizza sold in Springfield, Ozark, Nixa & Republic, to the Pearsons all day on Monday, March 2. Please call one hour in advance for large orders.

- Shooter's Billiards Benefit Pool Tournament. All proceeds will go to the Pearsons. They will match up to \$200 to make this event successful. Buy-ins are \$20. 1-7 p.m., March 18, 525 S. Glenstone.

- Harts Motorcycle Run Benefit for Officer Pearson at the American Legion, 2660 S. Scenic, on April 18. Motorcycle ride with silent auction, live music and more. More fundraising events to help Officer Pearson and his family are being added every day. Please check www.prayersforpearson.com or <https://www.facebook.com/PrayersforPearson/> for the most updated information.

Playin' & Prayin'

for

1641

Benefit concert

Friday - February 27th

The lineup for this event includes Dallas Jones and Molly Healey; Steve Smith and the Sneakers; and The Hurricanes, featuring Jody Bilyeu, Barak Hill, Brandon Moore and Dallas Jones. All seats are reserved at \$20 each and will go on sale at noon Feb. 4. Visit www.Gillioz.BoxOfficeTicketSales.com or call 417-863-9491. All profits from this event will benefit Officer Pearson and his family.

MILESTONES

30 years

Regina Maldonado
Traffic Services Officer
Police – 2/15/1985

20 years

Machelle Stacey
Senior Lab Scientist
Health – 2/6/1995

15 years

Terrence Moore
Craftsworker
Public Works –
2/12/2000

10 years

Dennis Mork
Parks Maintenance
Working Leader
Parks – 2/5/2005
William Walters
Custodian
Airport – 2/22/2005

5 years

Leah Kidwell
Community Health
Nurse
Health – 2/13/2010
Benjamin Wahl
Firefighter
Fire – 2/16/2010
John Choate
Maintenance Worker
Environmental
Services – 2/27/2010

Promotions

Amanda Becker
Community Recreation
Coordinator – Parks
Shane Judy
Senior Signal
Technician – Public
Works
Jason Marcum
Police Corporal –
Police
Mark Nelson
Community Recreation
Coordinator – Parks
Jeffrey Nygaard
Stuart Rutledge
Plant Shift Supervisors
– Environmental
Services

Retirements

James Mosier
Utility Worker
Airport – 13 years
Sue Murphy
Accounting Services
Representative
Finance – 20 years
Terri Oldham
Accounting Clerk II
Health – 17 years
Gregory Wheelen
Police Lieutenant
Police – 23 years

WELCOME TO THE CITY



Front row: Daniel Pohlenz, ES; Meredith Murray, WFD; Keith Bachman; 911; Jonathan Peitz, PW; Lance Hicks, IS; Tate Greer, 911

2nd Row: Joy Latimer; Aubrey Reece, WFD; Matt Corrie, Parks

Top row: Mike Armstrong, Parks; Taylor Moore, PW; Pierre Jason, WFD; David Hall, Parks; Jesse Richardson, 911

Welcome

Michael Armstrong
Equipment Technician
– Parks
Jonathan Peitz
Project Engineer –
Public Works
Tracy Polk
Workforce
Development
Supervisor
– Workforce
Development
Alex Schriver
Golf Course Worker –
Parks

Barbara Schulte

Workforce
Development
Specialist – Workforce
Development
Mark Seery
Fleet System
Technician – Public
Works
Lauren Sweet
Zoo Keeper – Parks
Lynn Vanden Berg
Community Recreation
Coordinator – Parks



FOR SALE

Farm fresh eggs for sale at \$3.00 per 18.
Please call Bonnie at 402-650-7614 or email
at redplaidgirl@hotmail.com

Brown leather couch, built in recliner on both
ends. Good condition. \$300.00. Linda #300-
9917

2004 Mercury Grand Marquis, 4.6L V8,
motor is strong, transmission is smooth.
Rides like a cloud. Had collision with very
large buck deer – has damage to front of car.
Could be repaired for a solid driver. Asking
\$1,500. Call Nancy @ 417-425-6557.

2-1953 Ford Crown Victorias – one is a parts
car and the other is to rebuild. This comes

with a rebuilt motor, transmission, manuals
etc., all for \$3,000 or best offer. Call 417-872-
7636 for more information.

2 three seater sea-doo's with covers & trailer
–very very low hours \$4,000. All in very good
condition and garaged! Call 417-872-7636 for
more information.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 Sheila Crosswhite POL
Dan Dudley LAW
J. B. Lilley FR
Monica Meador PDV
Robert Monier FR
Lauren Rosendale POL
Nicholas Watson-Woodman LAW

2 Melissa Boles PRK
Laura Henderson HL
Ryan Howard FR
Peggy Mahan PRK
James Williams PW

3 Jeffrey Ferneau POL
Jody Galloway AIR
Clay Goddard HL
Kristopher Kauffman ES
Mary Jo Kerringer FN
Jay Lisenby FR
Christopher Marsh PW
Paul Nahon PRK
Donald Nix PW
Beverly Schmitz AIR
Joshua Shank AIR
Dale Sokolik POL

4 Jimmy Avant PRK
James Brown AIR
Jason Denney IS
Oliver Hoedel POL
Amy Mooney PRK
Jacob Morris PRK
Marvin Neumiller PRK
Maria Luz Sanchez 911

5 Rebecca Conroy PRK
Ben King POL
Michael Marshall PW
Brian Reeves POL

6 Charles Alexander POL
Michael Hunsucker PW
Susan Kramer PRK
Kimberly Mahan HL
Anita Powers POL
Mark Sears POL
Kristy Stacy PRK
Danielle Yaw PRK

7 Jennifer Duzan ES
Mark Nelson PRK
Jerry Reese PW
Andrea Swearingen HR
Shawn Williams POL

8 James Cox ES
Scott Hill POL
Francene Marchant POL
Alex Schriver PRK

9 Bill Blevins 911
Jason Strong FR

10 Mark Duncan PW
Mary Maerz LAW
John Waitman ES
Anita Wood ART

11 Dwight Fast PRK
Timothy Grieser PRK
Justin Hilton AIR
Chad Ray PW
Steven Sharp FR

12 Jerrod Atnip PW
Andrew Dierks IS
Katherine Dunnegan POL
Brad Eddy POL
Charles Kelley PRK
Andrea Pace PRK
Allana Palmer PRK
Kent Shipley POL
Corine Stewart POL
Daniel Thompson PRK

13 Jesse Blanton PW
Marjorie Brown POL
Claudia Crighton DPI
Jason Gabathuler PW
Heath Jones PW
Jason Kitta POL
Jermiah Lockett POL
Terrence Moore PW
Harry Owen FR
Christopher Rasmussen POL
Donnie Rice ES
Brian Schafer FR
Ryan Van Fosson PRK

14 Mark Miller AIR
Sheila Samek PRK
Linda Westerman POL

15 Devin Freeman PRK
Jeffrey Martin FR

16 Stacey Blair 911
Paula Brookshire PW
Jon Blankenship ES
Sandra Chapman POL
David Kenyon POL
Danny Newton POL
Zachary Pugh POL
Clinton Ryan PW

17 Timothy Gomas POL
Eric Jones FR|-
Michael Kuss FR
Jennifer Simmons PRK

18 Gabrielle Barton PRK
Eric Claussen PW
Scott Kamykowski POL
Thomas Luellen POL
Luz Melendez ART
Wesley Wren PRK
Jordan Young PRK

19 Lindsay Jackson HR
Kevin Trogdon FR
Ryan Zinter FR

20 Eric Hawkins POL
Nelson Kibby POL
Dennis Mork PRK
DeAnn Reynolds POL
Todd Williams FR

21 Kelsey Dunn PRK
Dana Hilton FR
Jacob Keller PRK
Bette Schutt WD
Rachel Sloss PRK
Madeline Tate POL
Kyle Vander Linden PRK
Octavia White MC

22 Grant Dorrell POL
Jubal Hicks FR
Rena Rippe PW
Jessica Torres HL
Susan Urbina Rohrer PRK

23 Pam Bryant HL
Rachel Colley HL
Karen Powell WD

24 Trey Brown PRK
Holly Brymer PRK
Joshua Ludwig POL
Joshua Morrow POL
Erin Palicki ES
Kim Reser PRK
Cassandra Siperko HL
Matthew Thomas POL
Richard Wichern PRK

25 Chris Addison PRK
Shawn Haffner PRK
Carolyn Heavin PRK
Kathy Higbee POL
Meredith Murray WD
Randall Ragar POL

26 Ana Felix PRK
Meredith Medley PRK
Hannah Parker PRK
Dean Westermeyer 911

27 Cara Erwin FR
Brian Olson AIR
Benjamin Huelskamp PRK
Lennie Peterie PW
Benjamin Rauch POL
Patrick Smith PW
Emily Thomas PRK
John Waldo PRK
Linda Williams HR

28 Elizabeth Bruner PRK
Darrel Coney POL
Yvette Crouch PDV
Donna Rivers HL
Andrew Rues FR
David Snider POL
Randall Stevens PW
McKenzie Wisdom ES

29 Ryan Swearingin PW

Register now for annual inBalance HRAs

Annual Health Risk Assessments are February 4 – March 10. Available dates are filling up fast. Register now to ensure the most convenient time and location for you.

Annual health risk assessments are a valuable tool to monitor and improve your health and quality of life. inBalance HRAs are confidential and free to full-time City of Springfield employees. And, as a thank-you for participating in the HRA, inBalance will be providing all participants with a free Camelbak Chute

water bottle! Not to mention 75% discounts to Parks Family Centers and Cooper Tennis Complex, 20% off to Dickerson Park Zoo, AND MORE!

Go online to www.coxhealth.com to access the CoxHealth Express wellness portal to get registered. Need help with online registration? Contact CoxHealth at 1-866-260-2667.

For questions regarding the HRA process, please contact Ben Hunt at 864-1685 or email bhunt@springfieldmo.gov.



911 Emergency Communications fields nearly 500,000 calls last year

In 2014, the Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications department averaged more than 20,500 911 calls per month with nearly 80% from mobile devices, says Director Zim Schwartz.

The Springfield-Greene County 911 telecommunicators in the Operations Center fielded 490,143 total phone calls (emergency and non-emergency) with 246,596 of those as incoming emergency 911 calls. These statistics show an increase of approximately 3% of total calls handled as compared to 2013.

The 80% for wireless 911 calls in 2014 is above the national average of which ranges between 70-75% that most dispatch centers receive from mobile phones. With cell phone usage increasing over the past decade, dispatch centers have seen landline usage decrease and mobile devices severely increase. Springfield-Greene County has gone from approximately 40% in the early 2000's to the current 80%.

The volume of wireless calls provides extra challenges and delays for telecommunicators who must take more time to process the call, determine if multiple calls are being received about the same incident and then dispatch the appropriate emergency personnel.

Still to date, Missouri is the only state that does not collect any fees or tax money from wireless usage to help fund 911 dispatch centers. Several state organizations continue to work towards a goal of passing statewide legislation regarding wireless funding.

A countywide 911 sales tax was passed by voters in April 2007 which provides all funding for the Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications department. The City and Greene County worked together in the mid-2000's to organize the current structure of the 911 system. This was ahead of many other counties across the State of Missouri who still struggle with appropriate funding for 911 services.

Currently, the department employs 70 full-time employees, including telecommunicators and administration, who provide dispatch services for 14 fire districts and nine law enforcement agencies countywide. Medical calls are immediately transferred to the appropriate local hospital for assistance.

911 telecommunicators undergo an extensive training program and must successfully complete approximately 700 hours of training before they can be considered a fully trained dispatcher. This past year was extremely challenging as a

new set of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software was implemented in the Operations Room with obstacles that had to be overcome.

"Our 911 telecommunicators handle a wide variety of emergency calls and situations from stressed and distraught callers. In addition, this year had its share of technical issues with the CAD upgrade our telecommunicators had to work through daily. We are fortunate to have a highly developed training program for new hires as well as continuous ongoing training which is imperative in our department," Schwartz said. "I'm very proud of the work they do day in and day out serving our community and user agencies."

This past year, 911 staff received two top honors. Assistant Director JR Webb was named 911 Director of the Year, and Training and Education Manager Kris Inman received the George A. Major Trainer of the Year by the Missouri Chapters of APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) and NENA (National Emergency Number Association).

Schwartz reminds citizens that 911 should be used only when a response is needed from police, fire, or emergency medical ambulance personnel.

In Brief

Assurant City's new life insurance vendor

Assurant is the City's new life insurance vendor effective March 1. If you are an eligible, regular fulltime employee, you have the opportunity to enroll in guaranteed life insurance coverage during this special open enrollment period, which ends Feb. 13. Plan information and applications can be found on City Share through Forms – Human Resources – Life Insurance.

If you are currently enrolled in life insurance through the City, you must complete a new application in order to continue coverage. If a new application is not submitted by Feb. 13, your current coverage will end March 1.

Completed forms must be received by Feb. 13. If you have questions, please contact Krystal Ray at 864-1608 or benefits@springfieldmo.gov



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters needs mentors for boys

Big Brothers Big Sisters currently has a waiting list of 48 young boys that still need a mentor in their lives. Anyone over the age of 18 can be a mentor, and it only takes a little time each week. Dylan McKinsey, who is the Recruitment Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks, explained that, "Being a mentor in our programs isn't difficult. It's all about building a relationship with a child, so if you want to do that while watching football or taking a bike ride, it's up to you." To find out more or to sign up contact Dylan McKinsey at 417-889-9136 or dmckinsey@bigbro.com

Public Works' Eric Claussen named one of SBJ's 40 Under 40

The Springfield Business Journal announced Dec. 20, 2014, that Public Works' Eric Claussen, P.E., has been chosen as one of SBJ's 40 Under 40 honorees. Since the inaugural year in 1999, the 40 Under 40 awards continue to honor individuals based on their professional and community accomplishments. The 2015 class of 40 Under 40 will be celebrated during a

5 p.m. ceremony March 24 at Ramada Plaza Hotel & Oasis Convention Center, 2546 N. Glenstone Ave. Tickets are \$30 apiece and can be purchased at SBJ.net/4040.

Transportation Management Center's Roger Lile to retire

Please join us in wishing Roger Lile a happy retirement after many years of outstanding work. His retirement reception will be 2-4 p.m., Feb. 11 at the Transportation Management Center, 1007 W. Chestnut Expressway.



Save the Date! Battle of the Boot Camps returns Sept. 30

"Battle of the Boot Camps" is back this year and will be hosted noon-1 p.m. on Sept. 30 at the Drury field.

Teams of City employees will be gathered to compete in a special battle, and they'll be using all their might to "soak" the Leadership Team and even win 4 hours of paid leave!

Whether or not you are interested in competing or spectating, please take just a minute to complete this 4-question survey to help us plan. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BattleofBootCamps>

Do You Know...?

A Q&A of City of Springfield employees. To suggest a colleague for "Do You Know...?" e-mail thescene@springfieldmo.gov.

Nii Abrahams Public Information

Nii has worked for the City for 9 months.



Nii jokes around with his co-workers in PIO about the United Way silent auction item he just had to have.

What did you want to "be" when you grew up?

Not to sound cliché, but I have a real passion for people, college students specifically, ministry and leadership. One of my biggest natural strengths is leadership development, and my public relations skills have improved drastically over the past year. My "dream job" would be a campus pastor at a university, on the leadership development staff for a university, or in public relations for a large church. Fatherhood sounds pretty cool too ... but that can wait!

What was your favorite TV show as a child?

My favorite show of all time is 'The Cosby Show.' I've seen every episode more than once and it's something my family loved to watch together.

What one word would you use to describe yourself? Passionate.

If they made a movie about your life, who would play you? Young Nii: Michael B. Jordan. Old Nii: Denzel Washington.

What do you like most about your job?

I value working with quality teams, and, outside of my campus ministry staff, I've never worked with a more tight-knit, passionate, talented, efficient and engaging group of people, ever. Without even realizing it, they challenge me every single day.



WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Awards & Recognition

To: City Manager Greg Burris

I found out this week that Kathy Hardt will be retiring in April! We want to wish Kathy ALL the best in the next stage of adventure for her life, but we are SO sad to be losing her. Kathy has been an indispensable component in making the Salute to Legislators event a success and we have relied on her year after year. I want to thank Kathy for everything she has brought to the Springfield Metro Partnership organization and for everything she has done personally to help make the Salute great. To say we will miss her is an understatement, but we are also so excited for her! Thank you Kathy!

Emily Denniston
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

To: Logan Miller and Shane Kern, Springfield Police Department and Joel Holdman, 911 Telecommunicator

On Dec. 25, 2014, Joel Holdman received a 911 call requesting public assistance for an elderly Springfield citizen from her family in Sacramento, California. The citizen needed a helping hand with a Christmas gift stuck in her car. SPD responded and afterwards the family sent a message stating Joel Holdman, Logan Miller and Shane Kern "were so gracious, professional and courteous! The SPD officers were polite with the citizen and lent a hand." The family sincerely appreciates all the help and thought they truly did a wonderful thing for someone who needed it.

Brian, 911 Caller

To: Rick Crismas, Operations Manager and Custodian of Records for 911

On Jan. 9, an e-mail was sent to Rick Crismas' supervisor from Dan Patterson, Greene County prosecuting attorney, thanking Rick for all the assistance he provides to the Prosecutor's Office in the pursuit of justice. As the custodian of records, he provides 911 call recordings for various agencies. Rick testifies at court hearings to the authenticity of 911 calls. Dan Patterson also forwarded an email from Evelyn Keith, paralegal, complimenting Rick as an "exemplary individual that so many people call on for last minute needs and he does his very best to make it happen. He stands alone in providing this vital piece of the puzzle that allows justice to be achieved." Evelyn Keith wanted to let Rick Crismas know what a difference he makes every day.

Evelyn Keith and Dan Patterson
Greene County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

To: Chief of Police Paul Williams

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to officers A. Pearson and McClure and to the Springfield Police Department. On Friday, Nov. 21, 2014, these gentlemen agreed to drive to Olathe, Kansas and testify for me in a case that was pending against Stevin A. McCord. Both officers arrived early and were well prepared and familiar with their reports. Both officers did an excellent job testifying and had a wonderful courtroom presence. They did a wonderful job representing the Springfield Police Department. At the conclusion of our hearing, Mr. McCord was sentenced to 42 months in prison. I could not have accomplished

this without Officer Pearson's and Officer McClure's testimony. I sincerely appreciate their efforts and their professionalism on this case.

Sincerely,
Laura E. Smith
Assistant District Attorney
Johnson County, Kansas

To: Chief of Police Paul Williams

I'm celebrating that my case is finally over and Judge Holden awarded Diane Greer a 20-year sentence. I had no idea how light my spirit would feel until this occurred. I just wanted you to know how honored I felt before I went in the courtroom that Friday afternoon. Standing at the courtroom door was Corporal Neal McAmis and numerous detectives. They pretty well filled up the courtroom and I have to believe their presence influenced the judge. I had to work hard to keep it together. I really don't have the words to express how much it meant to me that these officers would come and support me that late on a Friday afternoon. Neal was the only officer I knew, and to think all these officers who didn't know me would take the time and effort to support me was phenomenal!

Again, my two-year journey with your detective has been the silver lining in all I've gone through. I'll forever be in Corporal McAmis' debt and I would like all the officers who came out to support me to know how very much I appreciated that and how much it touched my heart and impacted the outcome of the case!

In sincere appreciation,
Carol Connor



FOLLOW THE GOLDEN GOOSE

I am pleased to present the Golden Goose Award to Colten Harris. He always has a professional approach when dealing with citizens and the Bridge & Waterway work group. He utilizes a team approach in his interactions with our work group by understanding that our maintenance activities take as much precedence as storm water projects. Colten also will always set aside time to assist us when questions arise during the day. I would like to thank him for his dedication to the City.

Everett Kelley
Public Works